Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

12. (previously presented) An implantable port comprising

a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;

a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement of the access tube; and

a valve lock having a latch which shifts position to lock the valve assembly open in response to movement of the access tube;

wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger and wherein the latch comprises a pair of space-filling elements which are displaced by the needle both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

13. (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the valve assembly opens in response to motion of a needle against the plunger.

14. (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim 13, wherein the space-filling elements comprise a pair of balls which are displaced laterally.

15. (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the valve assembly is selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

16. (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim 12, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.

17. (previously presented) An implantable port comprising

a base having a passage for receiving an access tube;

a valve assembly in the base, said valve assembly having a bore which receives the access tube and wherein the valve assembly opens in response to movement of the access tube;

a valve lock having a latch comprising a pair of balls which are displaced laterally into a receptacle and remain in the receptacle to lock the valve assembly open in response to movement of the access tube.

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~~18.~~ (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim ~~17~~, wherein the valve assembly opens in response to motion of a needle.

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~~19.~~ (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim ~~17~~, wherein the valve assembly comprises a plunger and wherein the pair of balls is displaced both downwardly, to lower the plunger to open the valve, and outwardly into the receptacle, to lock the plunger open.

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~~20.~~ (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim ~~17~~, wherein the valve assembly comprises a valve selected from the group consisting of pinch valves, sliding valves, slit valves, duckbill valves, and leaflet valves.

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~~21.~~ (previously presented) An implantable port as in claim ~~17~~, wherein the bore comprises a tapered bore which seals against the access tube as said tube is inserted therein.